

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

BALTIMORE CITY RECREATION & PARKS

Message from Director Moore



"The accomplishments of this year have given us added momentum. We are excited to continue the work and we hope you are too."

Innovation is a word that I have often reiterated to my team this past year. 2020 rocked us to our very core as we addressed the ever-evolving challenges of the pandemic. However, with a hopeful outlook, we turned our focus to what we could do, rather than what we couldn't.

Innovation became the steam that powered new solutions that helped us realize our 2021 goals. Whether offsetting the rising cost of lumber through our wood reclamation efforts or challenging the minds of our young people with our STEAM programs, BCRP has taken our new reality and found innovative ways to meet our community's needs.

As you flip through our Year In Review, you will see that we've identified new partners to expand our services, grown our inventory, added new events and perhaps one of our highest achievements--National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), accreditation. Becoming accredited through the NRPA, Baltimore City Recreation and Parks has achieved one of the highest professional rankings in its industry.

The accomplishments of this year have given us added momentum. We are excited to continue the work and we hope you are too.

Sincerely,
Reginald Moore,
**Executive Director of Baltimore City
Recreation and Parks**

Our Inventory



51
RECREATION
CENTERS



262
PARKS



4700+
MILES OF
PARKLAND



25+
MILES OF BIKING &
HIKING TRAILS



116
BASKETBALL
COURTS



104
TENNIS &
PICKLEBALL
COURTS



23
POOLS



138
PLAYGROUNDS



3
SKATEPARKS



133
ATHLETIC
FIELDS

Message from the Director: 2

Stop here for a personal message from Reginald Moore our Executive Director.

Our Inventory: 3

We're growing! Check out our new parks, rec centers and courts!

Recreation: 5-13

New centers, new programs and more are on the way.

Parks: 14-17

Discover and rediscover Baltimore's newest park spaces here.

Facilities: 18-22

This year, we reopened a few of our indoor spaces. See what's changed.

Special Events: 23-25

Chaka Khan, Busta Rhymes and Cookies and Caboosees--revisit our events here.

Community Engagement: 26-27

2021 brought new improvements to our communities. Learn more here.

Capital Development: 28-32

Over \$67-million in Capital funds were applied in 2021. Find out which projects and where.

Human Capital: 33-36

Our people make the difference. Check out our strategic plan, the new, BCRP Youth council and NRPA certification.



A young girl with dark skin is smiling and looking up at the camera while floating on her back in a swimming pool. She is wearing a bright pink swim cap with a pair of pink and purple goggles resting on top. Her arms are extended outwards, holding onto a yellow inflatable ring. The water is a clear, vibrant blue with gentle ripples. In the bottom left corner, there is a green abstract shape.

RECREATION

Four NEW centers!

That's 51 and counting...

Many Baltimoreans can remember a time when the City of Baltimore operated 100 recreation centers and then that number slowly declined over the years. Today, we proudly operate over 50 recreation centers. But as we grow our inventory, we want to also focus on quality by improving our current services and offerings.

In 2021, we saw the restoration of four recently shuttered rec centers, Towanda in Northwest Baltimore, Bocek in East Baltimore and Hilton and Cahill in West Baltimore.

*** New in 2021**

- Medfield
- Dewees
- Gardenville
- Herring Run
- Northwood
- Rita Church
- Walter P. Carter
- Woodhome
- CC Jackson
- Parkview
- Mount Royal
- James D. Gross
- **Towanda***
- Roosevelt
- Carroll F. Cook
- Chick Webb
- Madison Square
- Mora Crossman
- Virginia S. Baker
- Greenmount
- Cecil Kirk
- **Bocek***
- Coldstream
- Curtis Bay
- Farring-Baybrook
- Lakeland
- Collington Square

- Fort Worthington
- Oliver
- James McHenry
- Dorothy I. Height
- Morrell Park
- Patapsco
- Samuel FB Morse
- North Harford
- Harlem Park
- Ella Bailey
- **Hilton***
- Lillian Jones
- Locust Point
- Solo Gibbs
- Bentalou
- Edgewood
- Fred B. Leidig
- Mary E. Rodman
- Robert C. Marshall
- **Cahill***
- Crispus Attucks
- Shake & Bake Family Fun Center
- Upton

REC RESTORATION

BOCEK

Made possible with funding support from Program Open Space, and State and City Bonds, the former athletic fieldhouse has been transformed to include a brand new lobby, digital lounge, updated restrooms and a community room that nearby residents use for events, meetings and other activities.

A planned second phase of the project includes an upgraded basketball court, fitness room, a gymnasium and a makeover to the existing field and park space.

TOWANDA

The Towanda Rec reopening comes after the center was closed in 2018. Following the closure, BCRP prioritized the center recognizing the need for additional recreational access in the Park Heights community. BCRP leaders met with the surrounding community to re-imagine how to better utilize the space. The renovation includes a new fitness area, equipment room, kitchen, multipurpose and STEM rooms and indoor and outdoor basketball courts. BCRP is re-imagining Towanda in three phases:

- **Phase 1** — The recreation center
- **Phase 2** — The swimming pool
- **Phase 3** — The green spaces on both sides of the facility.



THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

Baltimore City Recreation and Parks launched over 290 brand new sessions of FREE youth programming in 2021 thanks to a \$1 million investment from Family League of Baltimore to support the addition of quality, community-based out-of-school-time programming at over 40 BCRP rec centers across the city.

Programming provided engagement opportunities covering various focus areas that include math, financial literacy, music, dance, mentorship and anti-violence workshops, culinary and nutrition, journalism and more.

The Family League funding has had a tremendous impact on the city's youth in 2021 as demonstrated by the following youth participant survey results:

- 92% of youth feel safe in our program
- 84% said they get to choose at least one activity they like (That's youth voice & choice at its finest!)
- 90% said the adults are good examples for the youth and 89% said they care about them.

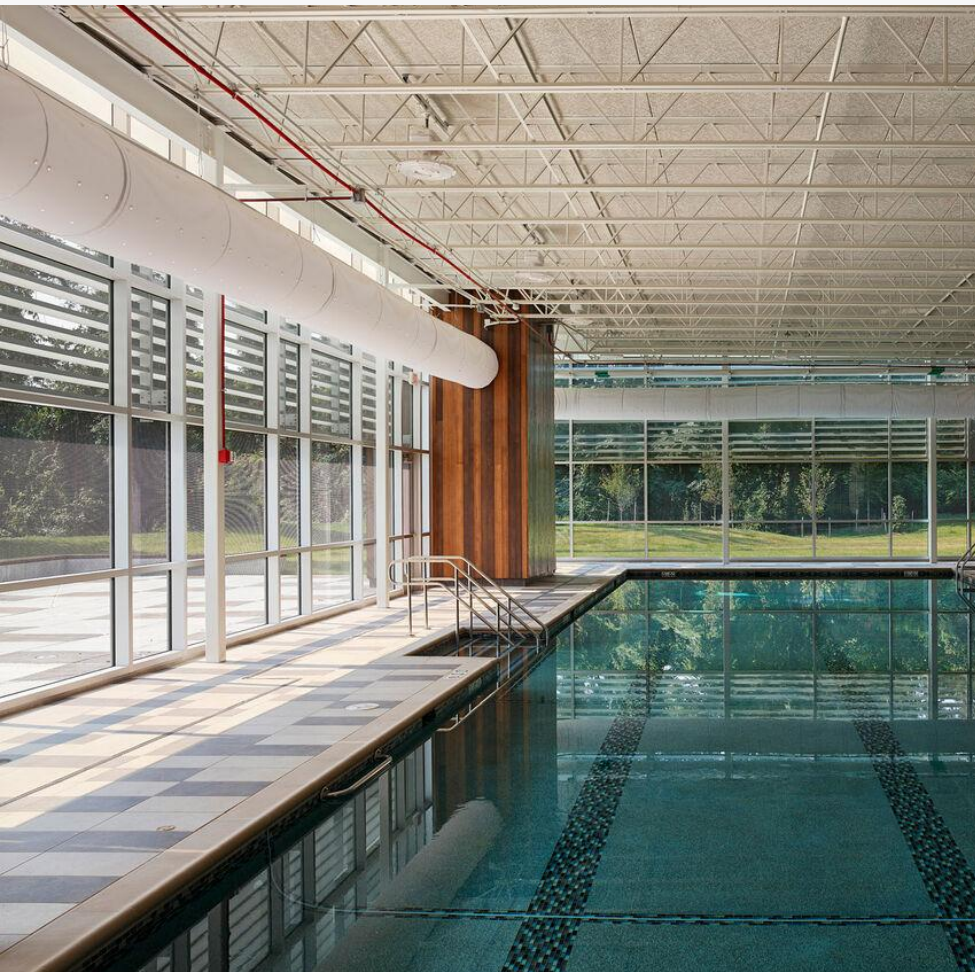


STEM is Here to Stay

BCRP's new *Rec2Tech* program engages youth ages five to 17 in a variety of technology and STEM educational activities. More than 200 youth participated in a weekly virtual workshop called *Take A Maker Break*. Participants received home kits and then joined their coaches for a hands-on, virtual meetup. *Rec2Tech* also partnered with Baltimore City Information Technology and Microsoft to help 100 students learn the introductory coding, the Internet of Things (IOT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Rec2Tech enriched student learning on the weekends, after school and during the summer. The program held *Saturday Series* with a three-week *3D Printing and Design* course for middle school students and *Wonders of Flight*, an aerospace engineering program for elementary school youth. We launched a summer evening program for youth ages 11-13 in three hands-on, weeklong sessions that included courses like *Intro to Electronics*, *Game Design*, and *Makey Makey Inventions*. In the fall, we offered after-school programming including *3D Pen Parties* with FullBlast STEAM, the *Science of Dirt Bikes* with B360, *Web Development* with Code in the Schools, *Graphic Design* with Art with a Heart, as well as a variety of *Rec2Tech* staff-led Makerspace Exploration programs.





Cahill Reopens!

Opened in 1972, the original facility was built as a traditional recreation center. However, Cahill was unique because it housed a thriving youth-based theater program that grew larger than what the facility could maintain. Confined to a stage within a gymnasium for years, the community desired a performance space worthy of the local talent. The new Cahill Fitness & Wellness Center is currently the only BCRP facility with a full-service performance theater. Opened in April 2021, other upgrades include:

- Outdoor splash pad
- Open fitness space
- Multipurpose room
- Performance stage and light/sound studio
- Gymnasium
- Locker rooms
- Outdoor basketball court
- Outdoor nature playspace
- Reclaimed wood-wall paneling (provided by BCRP's conservation program at Camp Small)
- Indoor swimming pool and much more!

The Urban Outdoors

Outdoor Recreation hosted a variety of robust biking and boating activities for the Baltimore City community in 2021. Five of our biking programs served 1,654 participants and eight boating programs engaged 862 participants. A welcome addition to Outdoor Recreation programming were the indoor kayaking and hiking programs. Despite the Middle Branch Aquatic Center being closed from September through November, 209 people registered for kayaking. The hiking programs showcased Baltimore's premiere hiking trail systems including Gwynns Falls, Herring Run and Cylburn.

In 2022, we look forward to expanding outdoor recreation programming throughout Baltimore. A biking program at Carroll Park, a mountain biking program at Druid Hill Park, a pump track neighborhood expansion and a trail program partnership with the Baltimore National Heritage Area are all slated for next year. Boating program expansions include stand-up paddle boarding at Middle Branch Park, boating at Middle Branch Park paired with fishing, and more advanced paddling along the south Baltimore shores into the Patapsco River from Middle Branch Park. Other new programming additions include fishing, disc golfing and skateboarding.

**AWARDED THE 2021 "GREEN PADDLE"
BY THE AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION**



Supporting Our Seniors

BCRP's aging adult community had a variety of in-person and virtual programming during 2021. In-person events featured a pool tournament, the distribution of free hearing devices and free Thanksgiving and Christmas boxes. We kept our seniors moving by teaching line dancing and dance instruction from Dance B'more.

There were numerous virtual classes, lectures, activities and tours for seniors as well. They received a plethora of virtual events that included book clubs, magic shows, jewelry making, cooking classes and power tools for coping.



ATHLETICS

BCRP offered a variety of athletic programs for various athletes in 2021. Basketball is one of the most popular athletic offerings from BCRP. Charm City Games saw a total of 168 participants this year, B'More Night Hoops had 140 participants and our BNBL league fielded 43 teams with 602 participants. Softball is another popular BCRP Athletics offering.

Our spring softball league had 692 participants while our fall league had 590. This was another banner year for our youth leagues. The youth football and Patterson Park youth soccer and baseball teams had a combined 562 participants. Other athletic offerings from BCRP included soccer, tennis, rugby and track and field.

THERAPEUTIC

Utilizing a mix of in-person, virtual and inclusion services, BCRP's Therapeutic Recreation program provided services to over 8,000 participants during 2021. This year was highlighted by the addition of two new Special Olympics community-based sports, athletics (track) and kayaking, which culminated with participation at a state games competition bringing the total number of community-based sports to six. Additionally, partnership with Special Olympics Maryland was formalized under a recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).





PARKS



Rash Field Returns

BCRP welcomed a new park to Baltimore's Inner Harbor this year. Rash Field Park re-opened in early November to an opening weekend featuring a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a weekend filled with health and wellness activities for all.

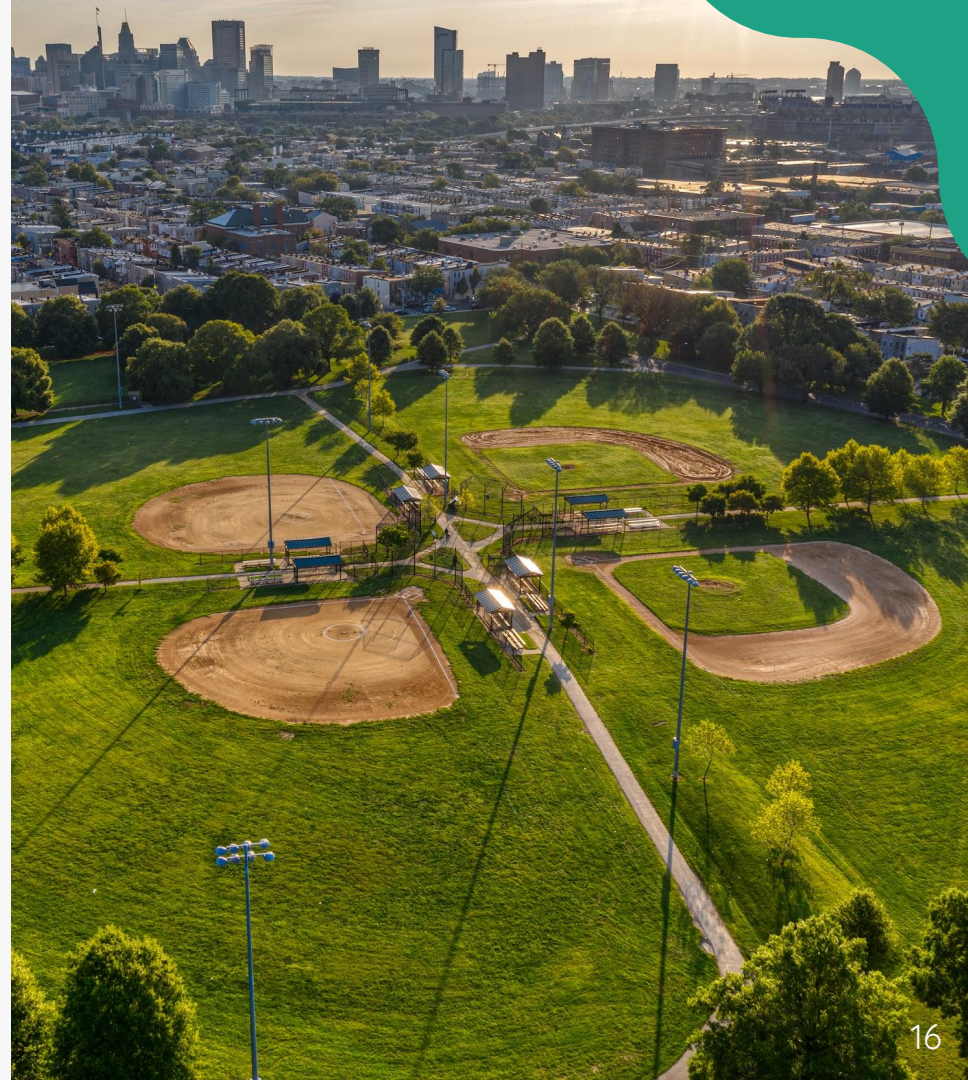
The ribbon-cutting ceremony featured representatives from our State delegation, city officials, Waterfront Partnership and other community partners and youth from our rec centers and Youth Council.

Partnerships from the State of Maryland, City of Baltimore and private donors made the project possible. Since 2015, Waterfront Partnership has worked with BCRP, surrounding communities, partners and city agencies to create a park for the families of Baltimore.

Let's Talk Turf

BCRP's Park Maintenance and Turf Management Division stayed busy all 2021 updating various recreational areas. We installed new sod at Towanda Park, a new walkway at the Patterson Park playground and installed new equipment at Nathan Irby Park (formerly Madison Square Park). The new additions at that park included a new walkway, plant beds, benches, trash cans and signage. The park's namesake, former State Sen. Nathan Irby, was received the park dedication on his 90th birthday in November.

The Park Maintenance and Turf Management team were also instrumental in revitalizing the field at Roosevelt Park. We teamed up with the Baltimore Orioles and Pepsi to improve Roosevelt Park for the Hampden community. More than 40 volunteers helped with removing trash, painting fences, installing sod, staining benches and more. The partnership culminated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony and field day where local youth baseball teams were the first ones to play on the newly renovated field.



Environmental stewardship remained critical to the Forestry Division's ongoing efforts to preserve Baltimore's tree canopy. This year, 83 people attended Weed Warriors classes to help remove non-native invasive plants from city parks and street trees. The Weed Warriors program supported 32 volunteer events in parks citywide. The TreeKeepers program had a strong year with 200 virtual students, 95 attended in-person, and 50 reached certification. Other notable Forestry highlights include planting 5,000 new trees!

As the recipient of a \$900k Innovation Fund Award, Camp Small continues to produce valuable and sustainable products from our city's downed and removed trees. Through a newly added woodshop, Camp Small has increased wood production by producing over 20,000 board feet of lumber and furniture from recycled city logs in 2021 alone. Other projects include:

- Standing dead White Oak trees were removed at Burdick Park for the construction of its new dog park. Camp Small turned the wood from those trees into benches for the park.
- Camp Small worked closely with Baltimore City Public Schools to produce seating for outdoor classrooms. We have now helped implement over a dozen outdoor classrooms throughout the city.
- City Farms helped to distribute over 50 tons of wood chips and compost to public farms and community gardens.





FACILITIES

While the Carrie Murray Nature Center was closed during the pandemic to ensure public and staff safety, we continued to serve individuals, groups, schools and families outdoors throughout the year. With guidelines and successful protocols, a new homeschool program served students weekly, summer camp happened and was as fun as ever, nature birthday parties continued at the campfire circle, and of course, the Forest Preschool operated every day of the week!

We still provided over 10,000 nature experiences during 2021.

One of the goals in 2021 was to increase opportunities for Recreation Center youth in the green spaces near their centers. We also increased opportunities for Recreation Center field trips to the nature center. In addition, the nature center staff developed virtual content (videos and online activities). Teachers sought this alternative way to engage students with live chats and videos and we continue to offer this successful program even as in-person visits become possible again.



Numbers served in registered programs:

- 26 Forest Preschool families every day, all year-round
- 573 Recreation center youth served during summer camp or afterschool rec center hours
- 1138 residents with outdoor public outdoor programs of limited group sizes events, birthday parties and weekend activities
- 160 homeschool students
- 860 students served with virtual or in-person field trips

During the pandemic, hundreds of families and individuals walked to the Carrie Murray Nature Center from the surrounding neighborhoods. Staff handed out maps and water to everyone they interacted with. BCRP is hopeful that the healthy activity they experienced in Gwynns Falls Leakin Park will continue!



Where the Grass is Greener

Baltimore's two public gardens, the Rawlings Conservatory and Cylburn Arboretum, continued to be places of respite in a COVID world. The outdoor setting at Cylburn Arboretum and the strict capacity limits at the Conservatory created safe spaces for folks to get out and explore.

After the accelerated interest in gardening from last year, the **City Farm Community Gardening program** continued its success with 99% of all garden plots in use this season.

Much of the year had capacity limits for the number of people in these spaces for programs, activities and rentals. To accommodate that, we hosted virtual programs, small group hikes and environmental programs and new for 2021, micro-weddings and elopements.



Highlights:

- The Rawlings Conservatory hosted the Annual Spring Flower show after last year's hiatus entitled Spring Takes Flight. With extended hours to help manage capacity, nearly 1400 people visited and enjoyed tulips, daffodils and hyacinths.
- Cylburn Arboretum hosted 75 elopements, micro-weddings and small weddings, many entirely outdoors. The Rawlings Conservatory hosted 35 similar wedding events.
- The Rawlings Conservatory also hosted 57 photoshoots while Cylburn permitted 134 outdoor photoshoots.
- Nature and Art programming resumed at Cylburn in spring 2021 with an afterschool Nature and Art Club, monthly hikes and botanical art classes both virtually and in person. In partnership with the Maryland Daffodil Society, there were in-person daffodil displays and virtual workshops.
- The annual Rawlings Conservatory Bulb sale and Market Day at Cylburn Arboretum repeated the success of last year with online sales and "curbside" pick-up.
- Both Cylburn Arboretum and the Rawlings Conservatory participated in the art installation "A Cicada Parad-a," with several giant cicadas decorated by local artists installed on-site for the summer months.
- The Rawlings Conservatory hosted the 11th annual Druid Hill Farmers Market for 23 weeks every Wednesday through the summer, managed by a great group of volunteers.
- The BCRP IT team installed a smart screen and Wifi in the Cylburn Arboretum Classroom to accommodate more virtual meetings and training.
- The BCRP Leadership and Capital Development teams completed a feasibility study to prepare for a future renovation of the Palm House at the Rawlings Conservatory.

A scenic view of a city waterfront, likely Boston, with several runners in the foreground. The runners are on a brick-paved path along the water. In the background, there are several tall buildings, including one with 'LUPIN' on top and another with 'FNB'. A small boat is visible in the water. The sky is overcast, and there is a light mist or rain. A green decorative shape is in the bottom left corner.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Fun & Free

The annual AFRAM festival taps into the best and brightest of Baltimore's Black makers, creators and entrepreneurial spaces. Much like many of our other services, creativity and innovation were at the forefront of the festival, now in its 44th year. Unlike any other year, the festival extended to a week-long mix of in-person and virtual experiences. We added a Restaurant Week where local Black-owned eateries served AFRAM themed dishes, an AFRAM Bike Party through Druid Hill Park and rounded out the weekend with a virtual concert with the legendary Chaka Khan, Busta Rhymes, Wale, Mooski, Marsha Ambrosius, and Smokie Norful.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Charm City Games

The 2nd Annual Charm City Games competition took place in July. Teens between the ages of 12-14 were invited to rep their district in a week-long, Olympic-style sports tournament in a variety of games including soccer, basketball, track and field, and tennis.

The young athletes worked with one another, BCRP and a team of volunteer coaches to battle for the coveted Charm City Cup, which lied in the hands of the 2019 winners in District 1. District 7 became the 2021 Charm City Games champions

Cookies & Cabooses

Cookies & Cabooses was a new, family-friendly event and the first-holiday event to take place at the recently opened Cahill Fitness and Wellness Center. Guests in attendance got a chance to meet Santa, make seasonal crafts and enjoy a showing of the Polar Express in the new theatre! Parents got in on the fun too with lawn games, ax-throwing, warm beverages and onsite food trucks. The free event welcomed over 350 participants.



1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

\$2,650,000 in grant funding and 2,751 community members engaged in 130 meetings---we've been busy!

At BCRP, we rely heavily on our Community Engagement and Strategic Partnerships division to provide a platform for residents' feedback on projects in their communities. This year's projects included the newly installed Carroll Park Pigtown Sculpture, hosting community charrettes in Park Heights to ensure community input in the redesign of the Towanda Rec center and programmatic curriculum for the center and working with the Armistead Garden community and the LatinX community to ensure safe public access to the park respecting both public health measures and conservation practices.

This year has also been one of reflection, understanding that deepening our community inroads means refining our approach. For this reason, we focused on improving the way the agency works with our partners and "Friends of Parks" groups by updating and improving processes and policies to better guide and assist our external stakeholders.

Better processes allow residents an easier pathway to partner and lend their support. In 2021, BCRP's community volunteers, Friends and coaches performed 7,863 hours of volunteerism in our parks and rec centers. The Independent Sector values one hour of volunteerism at \$31.29/hour; a monetary contribution equalling close to \$250,000.



CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

\$67million+ in construction costs in 2021. BCRP has made significant progress on a number of Master Plans and Vision Plans including Solo Gibbs, Florence Cummings, North Harford, Parkview Rec Center & Park and Druid Lake.

COMPLETED

- Cahill Fitness & Wellness Center
- Jones Falls Trail – Phase V
- Patterson Park Athletic Field Lighting
- Towanda Recreation Center
- Bocek Recreation Center
- Burdick Dog Park

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- Druid Hill Aquatic Center
- Gwynns Falls Maintenance Yard Renovation
- Middle Branch Fitness & Wellness Center
- Racheal Wilson Memorial Playground
- Garrett Park Athletic Court Improvements
- Patterson Park Entrance Improvements
- Dypski Park Improvements
- Leakin Park Pavilion

BCRP welcomed leading partner the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation as they kicked off Phase 1 of the new Middle Branch Fitness and Wellness project. The foundation celebrated its 20th anniversary and its 100th Youth Development Park with a ribbon-cutting ceremony of BGE Field at Reedbird Park presented by Kelly Benefits in early November. The field provides a safe place to play and learn for children living in the Cherry Hill community and other South Baltimore neighborhoods.

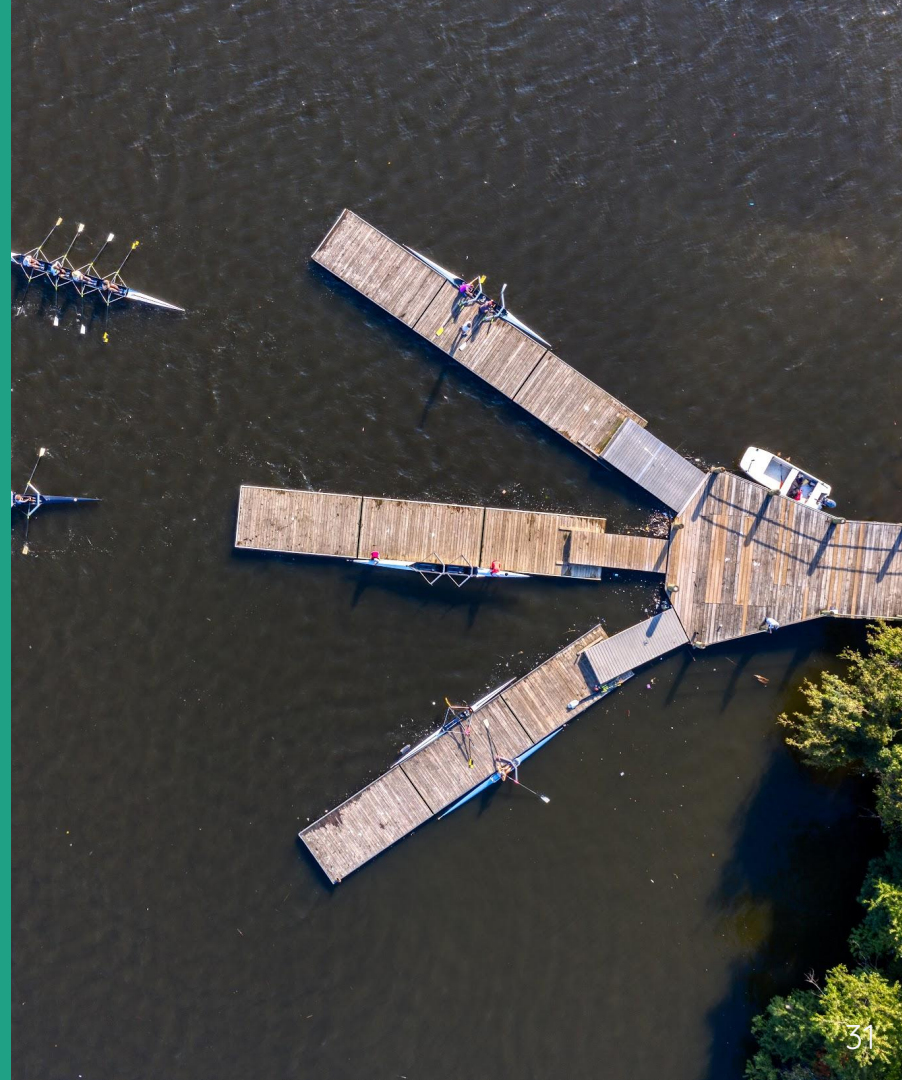
BGE Field presented by Kelly Benefits is a \$3 million, 83,000-square-foot waterfront field complex. The field is a significant element of The soon-to-open Middle Branch Fitness and Wellness Center. The BGE Field is multi-use and will support soccer, football, lacrosse, baseball and softball. It includes new lights and bleachers for rec leagues and other after-school youth programs.



The community effort to Reimagine Middle Branch took steps forward in 2021. Preliminary design ideas were presented during a virtual public meeting in September. The proposed three-part framework includes:

- Protecting and connecting the shoreline
- Transform barriers into connections
- Strengthen communities with new parks and programs

The Middle Branch Fitness and Wellness Center (slated to open in early 2022) is one of the first phases of the Reimagine Middle Branch project. Early designs and planning concepts draw upon the local community's feedback and attendance at half a dozen neighborhood events over the course of three months. We've collected more than 150 survey responses, welcomed five graduate student fellows from Morgan State University to the project and hosted "Splash — A Community Event on the Water" at Middle Branch Park in September.



DRUID HILL PARK POOL

With BCRP serving over 150,000 swimmers annually with just 23 pools*, the Historic Druid Hill Park Pool looks a little different these days. The Druid Hill Park Pool is the city's most popular public pool and accounts for 27% of overall pool attendance serving over 40,000 guests per season* and has 306 members*. Slated to reopen in the summer of 2022, the newly renovated facility will be a regional draw, including the following upgrades:

- Increased capacity from 300 to 500 users
- Seven USA Swimming regulated lap lanes (high school competition length) making it the city's first competition pool
- Zero-depth entry allows ease of access into the pool regardless of skill level or physical ability
- Multi-level water play features; slides, buckets and sprays
- New aquatic climbing wall and three-quarter meter diving board

*Based on pre-pandemic data



A photograph of two young Black men with bicycles. The man on the right is leaning forward, holding a black helmet, and looking towards the camera. He is wearing a black t-shirt and black shorts. The man on the left is standing behind a blue bicycle, wearing a black helmet and a black t-shirt. They are positioned in front of a large, light-colored stone wall. The background shows a cityscape under a cloudy sky. A green decorative shape is in the bottom left corner.

HUMAN CAPITAL

REC 2025

You can't make meaningful change without a plan. Rec2025 is our roadmap to the future of this agency. Created with the help of city residents, elected officials and partners, this strategic plan has and will continue to lead BCRP. Now in year two of this five-year journey, let's take a look at what's been completed and what's up next.

COMPLETED BY DECEMBER 2021

- 1.9 BCRP Cross-Training Program
- 2.7 Two Annual City-Wide Youth Events
- 2.9 Biannual community forum with residents and partners
- 3.7 Core programming structure
- 4.7 Wi-Fi in all BCRP facilities

BEGINNING OF 2021-2022

- 1.6 Established Core Competencies
- 1.7 Clarified Certification and License Requirements
- 3.6 User-friendly procedural guides for BCRP Divisions
- 3.8 Completed equity scorecard
- 4.8 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan

SPRING 2022

- 1.8 Uniform Soft Skill Requirements for All BCRP Staff
- 1.10 Diverse Hiring Plan
- 3.9 Enhanced intranet with additional interactive features
- 4.9 Resources to deploy public services requests
- 4.10 Risk management strategy

SUMMER 2022

- 2.10 Rebrand BCRP

DELAYED

- 2.6 Uniform Neighborhood Scorecard

ONGOING

- 2.8 Growth in Partnership Base
- 3.10 Acquire new external funding
- 4.6 Acquire funding necessary for pilot-multi-service facility
- Looking Back to Move Forward Year 2 – Acquisition of funding for capital project

YOUTH COUNCIL

In January, BCRP launched its inaugural, agency-wide Youth Council, an advisory board of young people ages 14 to 18. We interviewed 69 applicants and onboarded nine Youth Council Representatives to serve in a leadership capacity. Representing various areas of Baltimore, they provide a unique perspective necessary to assist BCRP in making informed decisions about youth in our spaces.

While in their roles, the Youth Council has met with the Mayor and City Council, done regional site and district-wide tours, engaged with communities in their districts and worked collaboratively with the Mayor's Office of Family and Children Success on the Mayor's Biannual Summit.

In September, the Youth Council hosted two events centered around self-care and self-expression at Carroll Cook Recreation Center and Patterson Park. Working with other youth-led organizations and vendors, the two events boasted over 400 people in attendance.

The Youth Council is currently working on expanding its audience and determining needs from youth across the city to help BCRP develop programs and activities that will impact youth experiences in Baltimore.



NRPA




In 2021, Baltimore City Recreation and Parks joined the ranks of elite park and recreation agencies across the country by earning accreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). This distinguished accomplishment was awarded during the 2021 NRPA Annual Conference.

CAPRA accreditation is the only national accreditation for park and recreation agencies and measures an agency's overall quality of operation, management and service to the community. This mark of distinction indicates that an agency has met rigorous standards in the management and administration of lands, facilities, resources, programs, safety and services.

BCRP had to demonstrate compliance with 154 recognized standards and document all policies and procedures as part of the accreditation process. Often the process helps identify efficiencies and heighten areas of accountability, all of which translate into higher quality service and operation to benefit the community.

While this effort was highly challenging, it was necessary. To provide quality recreation and parks services, we must be quality recreation and park professionals.



Never miss a moment, follow @RecnParks on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram or visit our website at BCRP.baltimorecity.gov.

 **Thanks!**